

Thomas F. Kearns
110 Adams Ct.
Fayetteville, GA 30214
February 25, 2004

FAA
400 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is in reference FAA Docket FAA 2001-11090-1, Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, Friends of the Huey Program. I am in support of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation continuing to be allowed to operate under the waiver granted to them to give rides in the UH-1 Huey. I was a Huey helicopter pilot from 1989 to 1996 in the US Army and Army Reserve. I am currently a police helicopter pilot. I was also a helicopter mechanic in the US Army. I am a commercial pilot and a certified Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic. I also hold a helicopter CFI certificate.

I am familiar with the maintenance practices of the Heritage Foundation and I am very comfortable with their procedures. I also am aware that the pilots and crewmembers that accompany any passengers on these flights are thoroughly trained. This is a very safe operation and any requirement to mandate that these operations be governed by part 135 is unnecessary and would effectively end these operations. That would be a tragedy for all of the citizens of the United States, especially for all of those persons that have friends or family members that flew these aircraft for the US Army. I would not hesitate to allow my son or daughter to ride on the AAHF UH-1 Hueys. Now they can experience first hand the thrill of being on board a Huey, feel the power of this fine aircraft, hear the thump of the rotor blades, feel the wind in their face! If this exemption is eliminated, that possibility would be gone forever. The foundation is simply not financially able to incur the cost of complying with part 135.
Sincerely,

Thomas F. Kearns
Commercial Pilot, ASE, AME, Helo
A&P Mech, CFI Helo